

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior version, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Thrice amended) An adjustable assembly for a cargo box cover for use on a cargo box having upwardly extending left and right side walls, [a front wall and a rear end gate wall, said walls defining the boundaries of the cargo box,] the cargo box cover having [a] left and right side rails [rail] connected to said left and right side walls, respectively, an elongate tensioning rail having [a] left and right ends [end], said elongate tensioning rail extending from said left side rail to said right side rail, and [further having] a flexible cover fixedly attached to [along] said elongate tensioning rail, said adjustable assembly comprising:

left and right adjustable threaded screw connection mechanisms,
including:

[a] respective left and right secured portions secured [block means connected] to said left and right side rails, respectively [rail];

[a] respective left and right adjustable portions [attachment block means] connected to said left and right end of said tensioning rail respectively; [and]

[an adjustable connection means for connecting said tensioning rail to]
respective adjustable screws interconnecting the respective adjustable portions
to the respective secured portions; and

a graduated measuring scale on the left and right side rail so as to provide
a measurement guide for accurate adjustment of the respective left and right
sides of the tensioning rail with respect to said left and right side rail.

2. (Twice Amended) The [An] adjustable assembly of [as in] claim 1 wherein each of said left and right secured portions has [block means connected to said left and right rail comprises a] front and rear block sections [section] connected to a base block section so as to define a space between said front and rear block section, said front and rear block sections further defining a hole in an aligned orientation so as to pass through said front and rear block sections and [section] across the [said] space between the [said] front and rear block sections.
3. (Twice amended) The [An] adjustable assembly of [as in] claim 2 wherein each of said left and right adjustable portions include [attachment block means comprises] an attachment block section having an elongate threaded [treaded] tension screw fixedly attached to said attachment block section and extending through said front and rear block sections spanning the [said] space between the [said] front and rear block sections [section].
4. (Twice amended) The [An] adjustable assembly of [as in] claim 3 further comprising a screw adjustment knob between said front and rear block section defining an inner threaded hole for receiving said threaded tension screw.
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Twice amended) The [An] adjustable assembly of [as in] claim 4 [5] wherein said hole defined by said front and rear block sections is of a larger diameter than said threaded tension screw.
7. (Twice amended) The [An] adjustable assembly of [as in] claim 1 wherein said left and right secured portions are [block means is] fixedly connected to said left and right side rails [end of said tensioning rail] and said left and right adjustable portions are engaged with [attachment block means is fixedly connected to] said left and right ends of said tensioning rail.

8. (Thrice amended) An adjustable tonneau cover for a cargo box having [that comprises] upwardly extending left and right side walls, a front wall, and a rear end gate wall that collectively define [said walls defining the] boundaries of the cargo box, the adjustable tonneau cover [assembly] comprising:

a flexible cover;

[a] left and right side rails connectable [rail connected] to said left and right side walls, respectively;

an elongate tensioning rail having [a] left and right ends, [end] said tensioning rail extending from said left side rail to said right side rail, the flexible cover being secured to the elongate tensioning rail; and

[a] left and right adjustable threaded screw adjustment mechanisms, including:

left and right securing blocks [block means] connected to said left and right side rails, respectively [rail];

[a] left and right adjustable engaging blocks engaged with [attachment block means connected to] said left and right ends [end] of said tensioning rail, respectively; and

[an] left and right adjustable connection mechanisms [means for] connecting the respective securing blocks to the respective adjustable engaging blocks; and

a graduated measuring scale on said left and right rail so as to provide a measurement guide for accurate adjustment of said left and right ends of said tensioning rail with respect to the left and right side rails, respectively.

9. (Twice amended) The [An] adjustable tonneau cover of [for a cargo box as in] claim 8 wherein each of the [said] left and right securing blocks has [block means connected to said left and right rail comprises a] front and rear block sections [section] connected to a base block section so as to define a space between the [said] front and rear block [section] sections, the [, said] front and rear block sections further defining openings [a hole] in an aligned orientation so as to pass through both of [said front and rear block section across said space between] said front and rear block sections.
10. (Thrice amended) The [An] adjustable tonneau cover of [for a cargo box as in] claim 9 wherein each of said left and right adjustable engaging blocks includes [attachment block means comprises] an attachment block section having an elongate [treaded] threaded tension screw fixedly attached to said attachment block [section] and extending through said front and rear block sections spanning the [said] space between the [said] front and rear block sections.
11. (Thrice amended) The [An] adjustable tonneau cover of [for a cargo box as in] claim 10 further comprising a screw adjustment knob between said front and rear block sections [section] defining an inner threaded opening [hole] for receiving said threaded tension screw.
12. (Cancelled)
13. (Twice amended) The [An] adjustable tonneau cover of [for a cargo box as in] claim 11 [12] wherein said openings [hole] defined by said front and rear block sections are [is] of a larger diameter than said threaded tension screw.
14. (Twice amended) The [An] adjustable tonneau cover of [for a cargo box as in] claim 8 wherein said left and right securing blocks are [block means is] fixedly connected to said left and right side rails, respectively [end of said tensioning

rail], and said left and right attachment blocks are [block means is] fixedly connected to the respective ends of the tensioning [said left and right] rail.

15-38. (Cancelled)

39. (New) An adjustable assembly for a tonneau cover used to cover a pickup truck cargo box, the cargo box having a left and right side upwardly extending walls that define an interior compartment of the cargo box, the adjustable assembly comprising:

left and right side rails connected to the left and right side walls, respectively;

an elongate tensioning rail having a tensioning rail attachment chamber and left and right ends that extend between the left side rail and the right side rail, the tensioning rail being operatively configured to attach to the tonneau cover; and

left and right adjustable threaded screw adjustment mechanisms, each of the respective adjustable threaded screw adjustment mechanisms having:

a side rail securing portion, operatively connected to respective side rails, with a threaded screw member positioned and arranged such that a force can be placed upon the tensioning rail by each of the threaded screw members as the screw member is adjustably manipulated to force the tensioning rail away from the respective side rail securing portion; and

a tensioning rail engagement member engaged with the tensioning rail within the tensioning rail attachment chamber.

40. (Amended) The adjustable assembly of claim 39 wherein [each of] the tensioning rail engagement member extends below the side rail such that the tensioning rail is restrained from being lifted away from the respective side rail when the respective engagement member is engaged with the respective side rail.
41. (New) The adjustable assembly of claim 39 wherein each threaded screw member is engaged in coaxially aligned openings in each of the respective side rail securing portion.
42. (New) An adjustable assembly for a tonneau cover tension adjuster apparatus used to cover a pickup truck cargo box having upwardly extending left and right side walls that at least partially define an interior compartment of the cargo box, the tonneau cover tension adjuster apparatus having left and right side rails operatively configured to connect to the left and right side walls, respectively, and an elongate tensioning rail having left and right ends that extend between the left side rail and the right side rail, the adjustable assembly comprising:
- left and right tensioning rail attachment blocks operatively configured to slidably secure the left and right ends of the elongate tensioning rail with the respective left and right side rails; and
- left and right tensioning screws positioned and arranged such that a force can be placed on the elongate tensioning rail by each of the tensioning screws as each tensioning screw is adjustably manipulated to move the elongate tensioning rail with respect to left and right side rails.
43. (New) The adjustable assembly of claim 42 further comprising left and right side rail adjustment blocks operatively configured to attach to the left and right side rails, respectively, each tensioning screw having a first end portion attached to

one of the adjustment blocks and a second end attached to one of the tensioning rail attachment blocks.

44. (New) An adjustable assembly for a tonneau cover tension adjuster apparatus used to cover a pickup truck cargo box having upwardly extending left and right side walls that at least partially define an interior compartment of the cargo box, the tonneau cover tension adjuster apparatus having left and right side rails operatively configured to connect to the left and right side walls, respectively, and an elongate tensioning rail having left and right ends that extend between the left side rail and the right side rail, the adjustable assembly comprising:

left and right side rail adjustment blocks operatively configured to attach to the left and right side rails, respectively;

left and right tensioning rail attachment blocks operatively configured to attach to the left and right ends of the elongate tensioning rail, respectively; and

left and right tensioning screws, each tensioning screw having a first end portion attached to one of the adjustment blocks and a second end attached to one of the tensioning rail attachment blocks such that a force can be placed on the elongate tensioning rail by each of the tensioning screws as each tensioning screw is adjustably manipulated to move the elongate tensioning rail with respect to left and right side rails.

45. (New) A tonneau cover tension adjuster apparatus used to cover a pickup truck cargo box having upwardly extending left and right side walls that at least partially define an interior compartment of the cargo box, the tonneau cover tension adjuster apparatus comprising:

left and right side rails operatively configured to connect to the left and right side walls, respectively;

an elongate tensioning rail having left and right ends that extend between the left side rail and the right side rail; and

an adjustable assembly comprising:

left and right side rail adjustment blocks attached to the left and right side rails, respectively;

left and right tensioning rail attachment blocks attached to the left and right ends of the elongate tensioning rail, respectively; and

left and right tensioning screws, each tensioning screw having a first end portion attached to one of the adjustment blocks and a second end attached to one of the tensioning rail attachment blocks such that a force can be placed on the elongate tensioning rail by each of the tensioning screws as each tensioning screw is adjustably manipulated to move the elongate tensioning rail with respect to left and right side rails.

46. (New) A method of maintaining an appropriate tension on a tonneau cover tension adjuster apparatus secured to a cargo box of a pickup truck, the truck cargo box having upwardly extending left and right side walls that at least partially define an interior compartment of the cargo box, the method comprising steps of:

providing a tonneau cover tension adjuster apparatus having left and right side rails operatively configured to connect to the left and right side walls, respectively, and an elongate tensioning rail having left and right ends that extend between the left side rail and the right side rail;

providing an adjustable assembly having left and right tensioning screws positioned and arranged with corresponding left and right tensioning rail attachment blocks operatively configured to slidably secure the left and right ends of the elongate tensioning rail with the respective left and right side rails; and

adjustably manipulating each tensioning screw to move the elongate tensioning rail with respect to left and right side rails such that a force can be placed on the elongate tensioning rail by each of the tensioning screws.

47. (New) The method of claim 46 further comprising steps of:

attaching a tonneau cover to the left and right side rails;

attaching left and right side rail adjustment blocks to the left and right side rails, respectively;

attaching a first end portion of each tensioning screw to one of the adjustment blocks and attaching a second end of the tensioning screw to one of the tensioning rail attachment blocks; and

manipulating each tensioning screw to drive the tensioning rail away from the respective attachment blocks to place greater tension on the tonneau cover.

48. (New) A method of maintaining an appropriate tension on a tonneau cover secured to a cargo box of a pickup truck, the truck cargo box having upwardly extending left and right side walls that at least partially define an interior compartment of the cargo box, the method comprising steps of:

connecting a tonneau cover tension adjuster apparatus having left and right side rails to the left and right side walls, respectively, the tonneau cover

tension adjuster apparatus comprising an elongate tensioning rail having left and right ends that extend between the left side rail and the right side rail;

attaching a tonneau cover to the left and right side rails;

attaching left and right side rail adjustment blocks to the left and right side rails, respectively;

attaching left and right tensioning rail attachment blocks to the left and right ends of the elongate tensioning rail, respectively; and

attaching left and right tensioning screws to the left and right side rail adjustment blocks and left and right tensioning rail attachment blocks;

attaching a first end portion of first tensioning screw to the first adjustment block and attaching a second end of the first tensioning screw to the first tensioning rail attachment block;

attaching a first end portion of second tensioning screw to the second adjustment block and attaching a second end of the second tensioning screw to the second tensioning rail attachment block; and

adjustably manipulating each tensioning screw to move the elongate tensioning rail with respect to left and right side rails such that a force can be placed on the elongate tensioning rail by each of the tensioning screws.

49. (New) The method of claim 48 wherein the adjustably manipulating step comprises manipulating each tensioning screw to drive the tensioning rail away from the respective attachment blocks to place greater tension on the tonneau cover.

50. (New) A method of maintaining an appropriate tension on a tonneau cover secured to a cargo box of a pickup truck, the pickup truck cargo box having a plurality of upwardly extending walls, said plurality of upwardly extending walls including left and right side walls, a front wall and a rear end gate wall, said plurality of upwardly extending walls at least partially defining an interior compartment of the cargo box; the method comprising:

attaching a tonneau cover and a tonneau cover attachment frame having a tonneau cover adjustment mechanism to the pickup truck, the tonneau cover attachment frame including left and right side rails which are connected to said left and right side walls, respectively; an elongate tensioning rail having left and right ends, said tensioning rail extending from the left side rail to the right side rail, the tonneau cover attached to the tensioning rail; left and right side rail attachment bracket mechanisms connected to said left and right side rails, respectively; the elongate tensioning rail including left and right tensioning rail attachment members engaged with said tensioning rail and positioned and arranged to sliding secure the elongate tensioning rail to the respective side rails; wherein each of said left and right side rail attachment bracket mechanisms include a threaded screw member, and each of the threaded screw members are positioned and arranged such that a force can be placed on the elongate tensioning rail by each of the threaded screw members as each said screw member is adjustably manipulated to drive the tensioning rail away from the respective attachment bracket mechanism, thereby placing greater tension on the tonneau cover; and

manipulating the respective attachment bracket mechanisms so as to drive the tensioning rail away from the respective attachment bracket mechanism, thereby placing greater tension on the tonneau cover following the step of attaching, at such time as it is desireable to place a greater tension on the tonneau cover.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

<u>Claim No.</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Comments on Claim Changes</u>
1	Pending	Many of the proposed changes to the claims are for enhanced readability; support for other amendments can be found in Column 3, lines 45-57; Column 4, lines 22-27; Column 4, lines 3-5; and Column 3, lines 27-31. Subject matter from claim 5, previously indicated by the Examiner to be allowable, is incorporated herein.
2	Pending	Many of the proposed changes to the claims are for enhanced readability
3	Pending	Many of the proposed changes to the claims are for enhanced readability
4	Pending	Many of the proposed changes to the claims are for enhanced readability
5	Pending	Many of the proposed changes to the claims are for enhanced readability
6	Pending	Many of the proposed changes to the claims are for enhanced readability
7	Pending	Many of the proposed changes to the claims are for enhanced readability; support for other amendments can be found in Column 4, lines 22-27.
8	Pending	Many of the proposed changes to the claims are for enhanced readability; support for other amendments can be found in Column 3, lines 45-57; Column 4, lines 22-27; Column 4, lines 3-5; and Column 3, lines 27-31.
9	Pending	Many of the proposed changes to the claims are for enhanced readability
10	Pending	Many of the proposed changes to the claims are for enhanced readability
11	Pending	Many of the proposed changes to the claims are for enhanced readability
12	Pending	Many of the proposed changes to the claims are for enhanced readability; support for other amendments can be found in Column 3, lines 45-57; Column 4, lines 22-27; Column 4, lines 3-5; and Column 3, lines

<u>Claim No.</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Comments on Claim Changes</u>
		27-31. Subject matter from claim 12, previously indicated by the Examiner to be allowable, is incorporated herein.
13	Pending	Many of the proposed changes to the claims are for enhanced readability
14	Pending	Many of the proposed changes to the claims are for enhanced readability; support for other amendments can be found in Column 4, lines 22-27.
15-38	Cancelled	
39	Pending	Support for each of the new claims can be found in the drawings and in the description thereof provided in the specification from Column 3, line 16, through column 5, line 31.
40	Pending	Support for each of the new claims can be found in the drawings and in the description thereof provided in the specification from Column 3, line 16, through column 5, line 31; current amendments are to correct syntax.
41	Pending	Support for each of the new claims can be found in the drawings and in the description thereof provided in the specification from Column 3, line 16, through column 5, line 31.
42	Pending	
43	Pending	
44	Pending	
45	Pending	
46	Pending	
47	Pending	
48	Pending	
49	Pending	
50	Pending	